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Letter dated 31 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement concerning East Timor issued on 31 August 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean **De Ruyt**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 31 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English/French]

Statement concerning East Timor issued on 31 August 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes this historic moment for the East Timorese people, who have just taken part in the first democratic elections in their history. That crucial step paves the way for the establishment of political institutions for a new democratic State.

The European Union is pleased to note the preliminary findings of its observer mission, which reported that elections to the East Timorese Constituent Assembly were conducted calmly and peacefully on 30 August 2001.

The European Union congratulates the people of East Timor and their leaders, who have embarked upon a long independence process, now bringing its reward. It also applauds the United Nations, whose transitional administration of the territory has enabled the process to be brought to fruition.

The European Union takes this opportunity to reiterate its full support for the consolidation of the path to independence, and encourages East Timor's political representatives to follow the popular will freely expressed in these elections.